



# Washington State Department of Agriculture 2014 Agency Request Legislation

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## **Milk Assessment Fee**

### **Description:**

- Extends the Milk Assessment fee at its present rate (RCW 15.36.551), currently set to expire on June 30, 2015, to June 30, 2020.
- Last extended with the support of the dairy industry during the 2010 legislative session.

### **Why the fee is important:**

- Provides \$255,000 for dairy inspection work by WSDA Food Safety Program.
- Dairy inspections facilitate interstate movement of milk and milk products by ensuring compliance with the National Conference of Interstate Milk Shipments (IMS) and Grade "A" Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO).

### **Without passage:**

- WSDA cannot perform certain dairy inspection program services related to compliance with IMS and PMO.
  - Industry will lose certification for the IMS Program and certain Grade "A" fluid milk and milk products will not be able to be sold into other states.
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## **Cottage Food Operations**

### **Description:**

- Increases the current annual gross sales limit of products produced in cottage food operations from \$15,000 to \$25,000 (RCW 69.22.050).

### **Why the bill is important:**

- Allows additional sales of high value products such as wedding and specialty cakes.
- Keeps the cap at \$25,000, allowing cottage food operations to remain exempt from most U.S. Food and Drug Administration food processor regulations.

### **Without Passage:**

- WSDA will retain the current annual gross sales limit of \$15,000.
- Negatively impact some Washington cottage food operations by limiting the quantity of products sold annually.
- May discourage new startup businesses from becoming established based on their individual cost-benefit analysis.